



'More Acid Than Woodstock'

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‘More Acid Than Woodstock’

Millie Light

**Supervised by: Dr Fidelma Ashe, Dr Bethany
Waterhouse-Bradley and Dr Jennifer Hamilton**

Human activity and growth under Capitalism has had such impact on the environment, that the present epoch is increasingly referred to as the Anthropocene – the Age of Man. It is paradoxical, perhaps, that this focus on *Anthropos* should occur alongside a developing awareness of the entanglement of human and nonhuman species. These nonhuman and more-than-human others have been largely ignored or abused by concepts of human exceptionalism and the endless pursuit of profit. In what Braidotti (2019) terms the ‘posthuman convergence’, that is the junction of mass ecological extinction and vast technological revolution, is there time and space for material beings to form, intra-act and traverse inter-dependently across new and unknown terrains?

More Acid Than Woodstock

Berkeley Pit Lake (1995)

When the geese take flight
they leave behind hundreds of comrades
in a toxic soup, seven hundred acres

filled with metal-laden water
from an open-pit mine:
of copper, arsenic, cadmium,

zinc and sulphate:
acid stirred in a stew,
and corpses like dumplings.

By 2020, they say,
with the rising of the water table
the lake will merge

with Silver Bow Creek
into Clark Fork River. Yet bacteria
specific to anal tracts in Canada geese

digest the lake's metal waste.
Two dollars buys you a bumper sticker:
Not Your Average Death Metal.

Based on: Hird, M. and Yussolf, K. (2019) Line of Shite: Microbial-Mineral Chatter in the Anthropocene.
In: Braidotti, R. and Bignall, S. eds. *Posthuman Ecologies*. New York and London: Rowman and Littlefield, 265-281.